

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 296413

ICNAF DELEGATION FOR AMBASSADOR RIDGWAY

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM OTTAWA DTD 04 DEC 1976 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L 4789

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, PFOR, CA

SUBJECT: GULF OF MAINE AND INTERIM FISHERIES ACCORD

1. SUMMARY: CANADIAN BUREAUCRATS ARE AGAIN TRYING TO UNDO THE OCTOBER 15 KISSINGER/JAMIESON UNDERSTANDINGS ON THE GULF OF MAINE. IN HIS DECEMBER 8 MEETING WITH JAMIESON, SECRETARY SHOULD INSIST ON SATISFACTORY RESPONSE TO HIS NOVEMBER 12 LETTER (SEE STATE 278171) BEFORE CONSIDERING ANY NEW CANADIAN PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER JAIESON'S REPLY TO SECRETARY'S NOVEMBER 12 LETTER (WHICH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TELLS US WAS DELIVERED IN WASHINGTON DECEMBER 3) IS A DISAPPOINTMENT. LETTER MAKES NO EFFORT TO RESPOND TO SECRETARY'S SETTING OF A FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS, AND RATHER DISINGENUOUSLY TRIES TO SET UP INDEFINITE INTERIM FISHERIES SETTLEMENT DISADVANTAGEOUS TO U.S.

3. EXTAFF DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY BEASLEY TELLS ME THAT REASON WHY THE REPLY DOES NOT ANSWER SECRETARY'S LETTER IS THAT CANADIANS BELIEVE THAT U.S. "HAS ABANDONED" OCTOBER 15 MINISTERIAL
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UNDERSTANDINGS. BEASLEY CITES TWO ITEMS OF EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT

THIS: (A) THAT THE SECRETARY'S LETTER OF NOVEMBER 12 DID NOT EXPLICITLY TIE DOWN IDEA THAT ONLY COMPROMISE BOUNDARIES WITHIN REPEAT WITHIN OVERLAPPING CLAIMS ZONES WOULD BE CONSIDERED: AND (B) THAT U.S. INTERIM FISHERIES NEGOTIATORS HAD REFUSED TO AGREE TO JOINT DECISION-MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION.

4. THIS IS OF COURSE NONSENSE AND I TOLD BEASLEY SO. THERE WAS NO KISSINGER/JAMIESON AGREEMENT ON THE ELEMENTS THAT THE INTERIM FISHERIES ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD CONTAIN: ONLY A FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATING THE PERMANENT ARRANGEMENTS:. MOREOVER, KISSINGER/JAMIESON AGREEMENT NOT TO EXCLUDE COMPROMISE BOUNDARIES OTHER THAN EQUIDISTANT AND NORTH CHANNEL WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT DESIGNED TO OPEN UP CLAIMS OUTSIDE THE OVERLAPPING CLAIMS ZONE.

5. BEASLEY AGREED THAT MY RENDERING OF THE OCTOBER 15 KISSINGER/JAMIESON MEETING WAS ACCURATE, BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER THAT UNDERSTANDING WAS RELEVANT ANY MORE SINCE ITS TWO PRINCIPALS HAD NOT AGREED SUBSEQUENTLY ON WHAT IT MEANT. BEASLEY THEN SAID "PERSONALLY THAT REASON WHY CANADIANS ARE PUSHING JOINT DECISION-MAKING AND SURVEILLANCE IN INTERIM AGREEMENT IS TO PROTECT THEIR RIGHT TO CLAIM EVENTUALLY A LINE WELL SOUTH OF THE EQUIDISTANT LINE, SHOULD THAT BE NECESSARY.

6. JAMIESON, HOWEVER, MAY NOT SHARE BEASLEY'S VIEWS OR OBJECTIVES. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION DECEMBER 3, JAMIESON TOLD ME THAT HE IS NOT RPT NOT CONVINCED JOINT MANAGEMENT IS ESSENTIAL, AND IF WE DON'T LIKE IT, MAYBE CANADA WOULDN'T INSIST ON IT. JAMIESON WOULD LIKE, HOWEVER, TO GET A POLITICAL COMPROMISE ON THE ISSUE THAT HE CAN DEFEND IN NOVA SCOTIA.

7. COMMENT: BEASLEY APPEARS TO BE MAKING A SUSTAINED EFFORT TO UNRAVEL THE OCTOBER 15 UNDERSTANDING.

8. BUT, SINCE THE CANADIANS ARE DEMANDEURS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS (THEIR INTEREST IN ASSERTING SOME CANADIAN PRESENCE SOUTH OF THE EQUIDISTANT LINE IS GREATER THAN OUR URGENCY TO TIDY UP THIS PROBLEM) WE CAN AFFORD TO WAIT THEM OUT AND SHOULD SIGNAL THIS TO THEM. JAMIESON APPEARS ALREADY TO SENSE THIS AND IS VERY EAGER TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY.

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9. THUS SECRETARY IN HIS MEETING DECEMBER 8 SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR AN ANSWER TO HIS LETTER BEFORE CONSIDERING OTHER CANADIAN DEMANDS. ENDERS UNQTE KISSINGER

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